

REMARKS

Claims 5-8, 11 and 12, as amended, remain pending herein.

I. Claims 5-8, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been overcome by the amendments made herewith, and request allowance of claims 5-8, 11 and 12.

II. Claims 5, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over either Rasmussen or Caiola et al.

Neither Rasmussen or Caiola et al. teaches the selection of a polyolefin sheet using the coefficient of thermal expansion of the sheets as a selection criteria. Claim 5 now includes the step of, "selecting an oriented polyolefin material having a value of not exceeding 5×10^{-5} ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) for average coefficient of linear expansion in the 20 - 80 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ range." Since neither Rasmussen nor Caiola et al. recites all the limitations of the presently claimed invention, each is an improper basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102.

Further, because neither Rasmussen or Caiola et al. teaches anything concerning the coefficient of thermal expansion, it is not clear how these references can be a proper basis of rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

III. Claims 6-8, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over either Rasmussen or Caiola et al. in view of Iverson.

Iverson teaches a monomeric solvent. Please note that in the presently pending claims, all claims depend from claim 5, therefore, claim 6-8, 11 and 12 should likewise be allowable at least for the reasons stated above concerning the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection. The novelty and unobviousness of claim 5 renders this rejection moot.

However, claims 6-8, 11 and 12 are patentably distinct over the prior art of record. There is nothing in these references which would suggest the desirability of combining any portions thereof effectively to achieve or suggest Applicants' presently claimed invention.

In view of the distinctions discussed above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 5-8, 11 and 12 is respectfully requested. Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If it is believed that the application is not in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the telephone number below.

In the event this response is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300, along with any other fees which may be required with respect to this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Marked-up Copy of Amended Claims
Petition for Extension of Time (one month)

MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

5. (Amended) A method for manufacture of a polyolefin article [characterized as including the steps of] comprising:

selecting [depositing, on a surface of] an oriented polyolefin material having a value of not exceeding 5×10^{-5} ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) for average coefficient of linear expansion in the 20 - 80 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ range[, a low molecular compound capable of dissolving the polyolefin];

depositing a low molecular compound capable of dissolving polyolefin on a surface of the oriented polyolefin material; and

[subsequent to the deposition of said low-molecular compound, effecting] bonding [of] said oriented polyolefin material to a second polyolefin material by the application of pressure and heat, thereby manufacturing a polyolefin article.

6. (Amended) The method of [manufacture of a polyolefin article as recited in] claim 5, wherein said low-molecular compound is a polymerizable monomer.

7. (Twice Amended) The method [for manufacture] of [a polyolefin article as recited in] claim [6]5, wherein said oriented polyolefin material [is provided in a] comprises an oriented polyolefin sheet [form] and [wherein] the [oriented] second polyolefin material [sheet is bonded to an oriented or unoriented] comprises a second polyolefin sheet [by the application of pressure and heat].

8. (Twice Amended) The method [for manufacture] of [a polyolefin article as recited] claim 7, [characterized in that] wherein said oriented polyolefin material is an oriented polyolefin sheet having a minus value for average coefficient of linear expansion in the 20 - 80 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ range, and [that] said oriented polyolefin sheet is superposed on [an oriented or unoriented] a second polyolefin sheet having a plus value for average coefficient of linear expansion in the 20 - 80 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ range [for subsequent bonding thereof by the application of pressure and heat].

11. (Amended) The method [for manufacture of a polyolefin article as recited in any one] of claim[s] 5[- 10, characterized in that]wherein said oriented polyolefin material is prepared by subjecting [an]the oriented polyolefin material having a value of not exceeding 5×10^{-5} ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) for average coefficient of linear expansion in the 20 - 80 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ range to a heat treatment to pre-melt the [so that its] surface [once melts].

12. (Amended) The method of [manufacture of a polyolefin article as recited in any one of] claim[s] 5 [- 10, characterized as including the steps of] further comprising:

[subjecting]selecting an oriented polyolefin material having a value of not exceeding 5×10^{-5} ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) for average coefficient of linear expansion in the 20 - 80 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ range;

subjecting the material to a heat treatment so that [its]a surface thereof melts; and

[effecting joining of said oriented polyolefin material by the application of] applying pressure and heat at a temperature below a melting point of the heat-treated oriented polyolefin material but sufficient to melt said surface thereby joining the oriented polyolefin material to the second polyolefin material.